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in the present Government and they will deal with them. We will not be very much in the right if we encourage the appointment of new staff. Nor can we transfer them to local bodies. If the hon. Member refers to district boards, panchayats and the like, the concerned departments will deal with the relevant projects."

*Nationalization of Local Fund and Municipal Medical Institutions.*

* 9 Q.—SRI M. S. MOGRAL : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state— 11-10 a.m.

(a) how many Local Fund and Municipal Medical Institutions were taken over by the Government in the year 1952–53; and

(b) how many of them were from the West Coast?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) Three institutions.

" (b) One from the West Coast."

SRI M. S. MOGRAL :—" May I know on what basis all these institutions are provincialized? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, proposals are sent by the local bodies and the Director of Medical Services considers them and makes his recommendation to the Government."

SRI S. C. VIRUPAKSHIAH :—" May I know whether such local fund hospitals that remain closed for a long period in backward areas where even doctors are not available, will be accorded due priority by the Government in the matter of taking over medical institutions? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" No, Sir. The Government give preference to the proposal of the local bodies whose financial condition is unsound."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" The Hon. the Health Minister said on a previous occasion on the floor of this House that he would consider the question of converting the Local Fund Hospital at Payyanur into a Government Hospital. May I know whether he has taken a final decision on this matter? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" All taluk headquarters hospitals are to be provincialized in the first instance. The other hospitals will have to be taken up at a later stage."

SRI P. SELVARAJ :—" May I know whether the Government can give any time-limit within which they will be able to take over all these hospitals? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" This provincialization began in the year 1928 (Laughter) and every year we have been taking over five or six taluk headquarters hospitals or municipal hospitals. But last year, we could not take over any of them owing to the particular circumstances in which the budget was presented."

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SRI K. PARTHASARATHY :—From the answer given by the Hon. Minister, we find that even though the process of provincialization began in 1928, it has been proceeding at a very slow pace. May I know whether the Government will take steps to accelerate the pace? ''

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—'' That depends on the finances of the State, Sir.''

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—'' Sir, the Hon. Minister said that this scheme of provincialization was being implemented with effect from 1928. May I know from him how many hospitals have been provincialized in the last quarter century? ''

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—'' In the Madras State 73 hospitals have been provincialized. I cannot give the figures for the composite State.''

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—'' Is there any proposal before the Government of Madras to nationalize or to take over some of the municipal hospitals in the next year and if so what are those hospitals? ''

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—'' The hon. Member may kindly wait and see the budget volumes.''

SRI P. B. K. RAJACHIDAMBARAM :—'' In view of the fact that the Government are already meeting the pay of the medical officers employed in the taluk headquarters hospitals, will the Government consider the desirability of taking over the administration of all the taluk headquarters hospitals still not taken over by them? ''

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—'' Yes, Sir, that is the idea.''

*Entry of Harijans into Choultries.*

* 10 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have taken any action against any authorities in the management of choultries which exhibit boards in front of them prohibiting entry of untouchables (Harijans); and

(*b*) if so, the names of the choultries, if any, which refused to remove such boards?

THE HON. SRI K. VENKATASWAMY NAIDU :—'' (*a*) & (*b*) There are no choultries in this State which exhibit boards in front of them prohibiting entry of persons belonging to Scheduled castes. Hence the other parts of the question do not arise.''

SRI A. RATNAM :—'' கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களுடைய பதில் எனக்கு வியப்பை அளிக்கிறது. சென்னையிலும், ராஜ்யத்தின் மற்ற இடங்களிலுமுள்ள சத்திரங்களில் நடக்கும் சுப காரியங்களுக்கு இது வரையிலும் ஹரிஜனங்கள் உள்ளே விடப்பட்டதும் கிடையாது; எப்பொழுதும் அவர்களை அனுமதித்ததும் கிடையாது. நேற்றைய தினம் நான் காஞ்சீபுரம் சென்றிருந்தேன். காஞ்சீபுரத்திலுள்ள சத்திரங்களில் தீண்டாதவர்கள்